

Budget Unit Brief

FY 2017



School Food Service

Purpose

The School Food Service appropriation provides support to the food service programs in the K-12 schools. It serves as a match to draw federal funds.

Federal Funding Requirements

School food service programs in Iowa are primarily federally funded under the Food and Nutrition Grant. The state appropriation is used to meet the federal grant's requirement for "maintenance of effort", or MOE. With this particular grant, the federal government announces the amount of federal dollars available to the state and the required state funding to earn all of the available federal money. If the state does not appropriate the required amount, less federal funding is received.

The federal grant specifies that the state funds may be used for administrative costs by the Department of Education. The federal funds are allocated to the K-12 schools. If federal funds are reduced due to failure of the state to meet the MOE requirement, it has a direct impact on the food service programs in the schools. Schools must either reduce costs or increase meal prices. .

Funding

The Department is currently appropriated \$2.2 million annually for the School Food Service.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code Chapter [283A](#)

[281](#) Iowa Administrative Code chapter [58](#)

Revised September 2, 2016

More Information

School Lunch Program: <https://www.educateiowa.gov/pk-12/nutrition-programs/national-school-lunch-program>

Iowa General Assembly: <http://www.legis.iowa.gov/index.aspx>

LSA Staff Contact: Tim Crellin (515-725-1286) timothy.crellin@legis.iowa.gov